

BARCELONA AN ACTIVE CITY

Most Progressive of All Spanish Municipalities and Center of the Revolutionary Movement.

The revolutionary movement in Spain centers in the city of Barcelona. The goal of the revolutionists is a republic, and republicans stand for progress. Of all Spanish cities Barcelona is the most progressive, writes Niksha. For ten years the conservatives have been looking askance at this great modern shipping and manufacturing center, so different from their sleepy inland strongholds, and from the peasant villages of the quiet hills, with political ideas of the last century.

Barcelona is a great world city. It is outdistancing Marseilles as the Commercial center of the Mediterranean. The Spaniard has often been charged with a lack of business and enterprise. Barcelona is his answer. Here his factories rival those of Lancashire, his shipping that of Liverpool. The great industrial suburbs, each a city in itself, are reminiscent of the outlying cities that cluster about Manchester in the industrial north of England.

Yet Barcelona remains characteristically Spanish. The city has taken the ugliness, the bitter competitive spirit of modern industry, and, more nearly than any other industrial center, has blended them with beauty and Latin courtesy and good nature. Barcelona is Spain awakened, but not Spain transformed.

It is a sunny town, with a clear, bracing air and a blue sky that the smoke of a thousand chimneys never hides. It has plenty of parks and tree shaded boulevards; even its poorer quarters lack the sordidness of the Anglo-Saxon slum. The flower markets, the promenades, the cafes, are thronged with loungers, not of the leisure classes, but workmen in their leisure time. The Spaniard has learned to work without forgetting how to idle. And withal, the crowds are keen and wide awake, mightily interested in public affairs, and discussing politics with the heat that is a birthright in the Latin races. Barcelona promises to remain at the forefront of progressive Spain.

MUSKRATS ARE FOUND EDIBLE

Little Animals Sold and Eaten in Many Cities as "Marsh Rabbits." According to Correspondents.

Newspaper correspondents advise us, says the Peoria Journal, that last all their appeared in the Washington, New York and Boston markets many barrels of plump little animals, all dressed and skinned, which were sold as "marsh rabbits."

It appears that for several weeks the good people bought these animals, cooked them according to the special directions and served them at family and party dinners as "rabbits"—not realizing that this food was really something vastly different from that of the ordinary rabbit.

Then came the announcement that the "marsh rabbit" was nothing less than the muskrat.

All of which goes to show that even now the American people are not wise to being fooled. In fact, they are it. Barum's statement holds true as it did when he displayed a sand-pered elephant as "the only sacred white elephant in captivity."

We sometimes think that this is becoming a "marsh rabbit age."

Liberty Bell Bonds.

Thousands of banners and posters, and nobody knows how many circular letters and newspaper advertisements, have been with one another in bringing to public attention the excellent reasons why everybody should own Liberty bonds. Here is a reason which has not been mentioned by any of the banners, posters, or advertisements, observes a New York exchange.

"Have you bought your Liberty bond?" asked McCole's friend as the two came through the tube on a crowded subway train.

McCole replied proudly that he had done so—with the bit of money he had been able to scrape together.

"You see," he added, "I figured they was good things to have. For instance, if you got arrested and needed bail you could use them and not lose the interest."

Want No Vermin.

No man is allowed to enter Germany from Russia without being thoroughly disinfected and purified. It is not disease that the Germans are guarding against, but something that to them is more terrifying than disease—vermin. Therefore, friend or foe, nobleman or peasant, nobody is allowed to cross the threshold of Germany without a visit to one of the disinfecting stations along the eastern frontier. Even one of the emperor's sons had to submit to the disinfecting process and received, along with such of the Russian Cossacks who merited it, a certificate stating that "His Royal Highness Prince Adelbert is, for the time being, free from lice."

Founding of Moscow.

It was on the site of the Kremlin, now the center of the city, that Moscow was founded by Yuri Dolgoruki, Prince of Kiev, in 1147, although historians believe a village existed on the heights above the River Moscow even before the advent of Dolgoruki. Within a century the new village entered into the turmoil of Slavic wars then raging.

CRITICAL SITUATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

They May Suffer Collapse as Railroads Already Have, Greatly to the Disadvantage of the Public.

Columbus, March 4.—The appeals to State Public Utilities Commissions for increase in rates by the public service corporations shows them to be in imminent danger of paralysis such as the railroads now are suffering.

The difficulty in the case of each utility is from the same cause—a selling price for service fixed at a time before the war had increased all costs by half and doubled many of them.

The gas, telephone, power and traction companies are showing by their books the increased cost of operating and of maintenance, to an extent which has put many of them on the red side of the ledger.

With nearly all of them the greatest cost item is coal.

Previous to the outbreak of the European war coal cost \$1.90 a ton delivered. The average cost now is \$3.43 and the freight charge is paid by the purchaser. And, too, when the price was \$1.90, screened coal was delivered. Now it is "run-of-mine" with slate, stone, earth, dust and all. This difference in quality makes a heat unit cost double what it cost when the price to consumers was fixed.

Electrical power for light and heat and traction, and telephones is distributed through copper wire. Previous to three years ago, the price of copper for this use ranged between 12 and 15 cents. It now is 28 cents, and recently a Columbus company was forced to buy \$24,000 worth at 33 cents.

The world can't work, or live, without the public utilities. Their existence is menaced by doubled costs. Like any other business, they have something to sell—service. Like other business enterprises, the selling price must be based upon the cost of production. The manufacturer and merchant pass the increased cost of production on to the consumer. Unless the utility can do the same it must go out of business.

What should be done about it?

No satisfactory answer to this question has yet been uttered.

Companies have agreements with the public for a price for service, fixed for a term of years, or their rates have been fixed by municipal ordinances, based on pre-war cost of production.

City officials say "a contract is a contract." So it is, but enforcing a contract which will wreck a service company will bring a public calamity.

In many instances the service companies, at the present rates, can earn no margin for extensions, or repairs, for all income must go into cost of operation and many are not earning even operating expenses. A concern doing unprofitable business can't borrow money to tide it over.

The quality of service will deteriorate, necessarily, and then we'll all kick about it.

Utility enterprises have certainly fallen upon evil days, and are wrestling with problems of which their patrons are wholly unaware. The market price of utility securities has steadily declined during the last two or three years, and many of them have no market value at all.

It is not alone those whose money is in these properties who are interested. If they fail and the public is deprived of their services, it will be the greater sufferer; for there will be no inducement for others to take the hazard of attempting to furnish the service. These problems require some sane thinking on the part of both producer and consumer.

THE PUFFED AND PURPLED "PLUTE."

Of course there was a time, every soap box orator told us about it, when the public utility manager or stockholder was looked upon as a puffed and purpled plutocrat. He rode in his limousine and drank his champagne out of quart tankards. He was all encrusted with diamonds and his wife was trying to "reduce." But "there was the halcyon days of the old regime," as a Cincinnati statesman once remarked.

Now, if you see a wan, shrinking, shivering little man edging along the dark wall of the alley and shuddering at each strident sound—that's a public utility man.

It isn't exactly fair to advance the dictum that all haggard, wan, pale, shrinking, nervous men are of the public utility brotherhood, but it is a safe assertion that all and several of the public utility owners, managers and high officials are wan and haggard in these days of stress.

Of course, in those good old days it was a perfectly proper proceeding to cuss the gas man, damn the telephone service and enjoy a paroxysm of rage when the inter-urban car was late. No more.

It really isn't done.

The manufacturer of pink pills, or beaded raiment, may complain if he will of the war stringency and its withering effect upon his business, but he can advance the prices of pink pills and make it harmonize with the cost of tenderloin steak. Cannot the gas man advance the price of gas to keep step with bacon and eggs? Yes, he cannot.

The prices of public service being fixed for a term of years cannot be raised to meet the doubled costs created by the war.

SAY GOODBY TO DOUGHNUT

Soaks Up Fat Which Can Be Put to Better Use, Is Judgment of Hoover.

The doughnut is doomed, says the Indianapolis News. Recent intimations of disapproval by the food administration of this matutinal confection might have been regarded as a spur to conservation and a threat that would not be carried out unless as a last resort. Bakers are prohibited in making bread or rolls from adding sugar or fats to the dough during the baking or afterward. Some difference of opinion as to what are rolls has given the doughnut a respite, but it is to be shortlived, according to the state food administrator, who brings this significant news from Washington:

This ruling gives sweet dough goods a temporary lease of life only. Mr. Hoover has a special grudge against doughnuts. They soak up fat which we do not need and our allies are suffering for. So doughnuts and frying pan foods will shortly be taboo and we must not eat or make them until the war is over.

Thus is the fate of the doughnut sealed. Mr. Hoover is known as a determined man who cannot be moved from a course which he thinks will serve the interests of his country. The statement, however, that the food administrator has a grudge against the doughnut will pain many who have peculiarly strong fondness for it as an accompaniment of the morning meal, though Mr. Hoover's animus may arise from motives of patriotism, not prejudice.

If the government says the doughnut must go out of our lives, then go it must. But there will be some natural regret at parting with an old and fried friend. The doughnut, like pie, has become a part of our common life. Many will find breakfast without sinkers an incomplete and unsatisfying repast. But perhaps the abstinence will bring better digestion and more equable tempers.

URGED ONWARD TO SUCCESS

According to Writer of Note, Individual Winner Is Not Always Entitled to All Credit.

Mary Roberts Rinehart, writing for the American Magazine, says:

"Back of every success there is some one person, or group of persons, unheralded and unsung, to whom much of the credit is due. My husband has stood squarely behind me, always. His belief in me, his steadiness and his sanity and his humor have kept me going, when, as has happened now and then—my little world of letters has shaken under my feet.

"I sometimes think, if I were advising a young woman as to a career, that I should say: 'First pick your husband.'

"It is impossible to try to tell how I have attempted to reconcile my private life with my public work without mentioning my husband. Because, after all, it requires two people, a man and a woman, to organize a home, and those two people must be in accord. It has been a sort of family creed of ours that we do things together. We have tried, because of the varied outside interests that pull hard, to keep the family life even more intact than the average. Differing widely as they do, my husband's profession and my career, we have been compelled to work apart. But we have relaxed, rested and played together.

"And this rule holds good for the family, although I am afraid our playtime is over for a while. Not altogether. I will not let myself believe that."

Set His Standard High.

One big trouble in this world is that we do not set our standards high enough. We content ourselves with little performances, and do not pick our critic with care. We suit ourselves.

All this cannot be said about a certain little boy in this town, who got a big blackboard and plenty of crayon for Christmas. Whatever the ability of that embryonic artist may be, certainly his ambition is boundless.

He went to Sunday school, and while there was much impressed, as usual, with the pictures of Biblical characters shown him.

That afternoon he stood before his new blackboard and meditated deep and long.

Then he turned to his mother and said: "I'm going to draw a picture that will surprise God."—Washington Star.

Here Comes the Goshawk.

A warning to sportsmen and others that a dangerous migration is in progress from the arctic regions has been issued by the Iowa fish and game commissioners.

The present invasion is said to be the most serious since that of eleven years ago, when the birds driven southward by a scarcity of hare and partridge, came to this state and devoured grouse by the wholesale.

The goshawk, which, unlike other hawks, flies straightaway, instead of in circles, is somewhat larger than a pigeon.—Exchange.

A Specious Plea.

"Waiter, I had fully determined to give you a fifty-cent tip when I came in here."

"Thank you, sir."

"But on second thought, perhaps I had better donate it to a war fund."

"I've been drafted, sir. I'm due to leave next week, and I'm sure your conscience won't hurt you for giving that much to a poor devil who will soon be in the trenches."

PROMISES WARM OHIO CAMPAIGN

Wet and Dry Issue Will Dominate.

CONTENDING FORCES LINING UP

Liquor Interests of State Under Heavy Handicap as Their Forces Are Not Harmonious and War Conditions Are Adding to the Popularity of Prohibition—Drys Now Busy Reorganizing County Federations.

Columbus, Ohio.—Persons acquainted with conditions in Ohio are prophesying a wet and dry campaign in the state this year more intense than any fought in previous years. Unless a special session of the legislature is called this winter and the National Prohibition amendment ratified, the campaign this year will be not only for state-wide Prohibition, but also for the control of the next General Assembly.

The liquor interests are fighting with their backs to the wall. They have been losing ground so rapidly they realize the tide is strongly against them and the war is adding to their troubles. They held the state last year by only 1137 majority, and on top of this virtual defeat, came the action of Congress in submitting the National Prohibition amendment.

To not only check, but to turn back the victorious dry forces is now the task which confronts the brewers of the state.

The brewers must wage the battle almost single-handed for the distillers are out of the running, as Congress last fall put the ban on the making of whiskey for beverage purposes. Generally speaking, the saloonkeepers are not in financial condition to be of any great assistance.

The brewers will have to wage the battle under a heavy handicap, for the feeling is strong that through the German-American Alliance, many brewers are in sympathy with Germany, and the people of Ohio are not inclined to look with much favor on any pro-German activity.

Besides, Congress prohibited the selling or giving of beer as well as whisky to soldiers, in uniform, and the people while heartily approving the law, are strong in the belief that if liquor should be kept from the soldiers to make them more efficient, it should also be kept from those who do not wear uniforms, for they must be equally efficient in backing the boys who do the fighting.

Then, too, Ohio voters are realizing as never before the wastefulness of the liquor traffic and they know all waste must be stopped in order to win the war. In these war days, Ohio needs as never before the \$110,000,000 spent annually in this state for liquor, and the other millions spent in taking care of the criminals, paupers and diseased caused by drink, to say nothing of the foodstuff and fuel wasted in producing liquor.

The drys are starting the year by lining up their forces and already a score or more of counties have organized and others are getting ready to organize. All the dry elements are working in perfect harmony and the outlook is for even a stronger federation of the dry forces than was had in last year's campaign.

Ohio drys polled 522,590 votes for Prohibition last year as against 484,969 votes in 1915. The wet vote last year was 523,727 as against 540,377 in 1915. The object of the dry drive this year is to adopt state-wide Prohibition and also elect a legislature which will ratify the National Prohibition amendment.

The drys realize they have a hard fight and do not intend to overlook anything. The wets realize if they lose Ohio this year, all is lost, and while their camp is divided, they will make a mighty effort to pull their forces together. One of their fears is that both political parties will line up against them.

Seasoned observers are of the opinion that the year opens with the advantage decidedly with the drys.

NO PLACE ON THE FENCE

Here in Ohio For the Straddler on the Liquor Question. (Kenia Republican.)

Heretofore it has been possible in a large number of the legislative districts where candidates were afraid to express their views on the liquor question to avoid doing so.

Now every candidate in every district will be forced to state where he stands, because that will become the vital issue.

Candidates for state offices, because of their supposed influence in legislative matters, will likewise be forced out into the open on this question.

In the last state campaign, although the liquor question was on the ballot in two forms, candidates, including those for governor, were careful to avoid the issue.

The fence will not longer be a good roosting place. Every candidate for public office will be compelled to climb down on one side or the other, painful as the process may be.

TRAINING REGULAR ARMY.

We read much these days of the doings of National Guardsmen and National army conscripts in their cantonments, but nothing ever appears about the training of the regular army, which is now no small affair. On April 1 it contained 110,000 officers and men. Now they number nearly 350,000. Where are they all? The natural presumption is that most of them are in France, where they are being prepared for trench work, says Milwaukee Wisconsin. Recent events have also brought out the fact that a number of National Guardsmen, possibly two divisions, have crossed the ocean. More may be expected to follow soon. Washington refuses to let it be known how many soldiers Uncle Sam has in France, but it is a fair guess that the number is much larger than is generally supposed.

It's not so much preachment that we need as wholesome example. Mankind is looking for the fellows who get joy out of life, not the fellows that take it out. It longs for real happiness that won't need to apologize for bubbling over when there is something to laugh at. It craves the man of strength and culture that can enter into the frolics of childhood and show by enjoyment that he was not just playing a part. It longs for the touch of honest sympathy that comforts without pitying. Such characters change life's perspective and get young people to see that there is joy in life without going to the devil to get it. And if there is anyone who should be happy it is he who has lived well.

Already soldiers and sailors have applied for insurance policies aggregating \$18,000,000 under the new war insurance system. As the benefits of the government's plan come to be fully understood, the men in the national service will not need to be persuaded to take advantage of it. They owe it to themselves and their families to provide for the future with the government's assistance.

The shortage of cents is attributed to the advance in the prices of cigars and cigarettes. It is declared that the humble change maker has not been so scarce at any previous time during the past twenty years. Many people are paying greater attention to the copper than they did when it had more purchasing value than it possesses now. Human beings are so inconsistent!

The intimation is becoming stronger that the German people are more and more disposed to mind their own business, which a mixture of junkerism and militarism has hitherto kindly minded for them. The war is proving in more ways than one the biggest boomerang of modern times.

The British peers are attacking the practice of buying and selling titles. They ought to adopt the simple practice in this country, where any man who wants a title can assume one to his liking without paying a cent to obliging friends for calling him by it.

The government forecast of a 25 per cent increase in this year's crop of early potatoes will produce a feeling of cheerfulness among people who have not cut those costly vegetables off their list.

The Boston schoolteacher who was amazed to discover that her pupils couldn't put the words to "America" on paper correctly, would be shocked to learn that probably not one college graduate in a hundred could do it either.

If you want to find out the difference between a highbrow and a bonehead, ask the highbrow. He knows. The bonehead doesn't. The bonehead knows enough to be unhappy, which is quite some consolation, we claim.

Yellow root, it seems, has also gone up in price, due to war conditions, but all hope need not be abandoned until a report is received on next spring's sassafras crop.

All the world is wondering why Japan does not take a more active part in the war. And Japan allows all the world to keep on wondering.

Even though the ban continue on German dyestuffs, we look for an ample supply of highly-colored American yarns from the front.

Moderate your eating to the point where your mouth will water when you even think of a haful of corned beef and cabbage.

A shortage in attendance of the upper classes of colleges this year does not indicate retrogression.

We can think of but one argument in favor of 3-cent postage. Discouragement of poets.

It is said that the men in the trenches need new uniforms every month.

STATES RETAIN POLICE POWERS

Proposed Prohibition Amendment So Says.

THERE IS NO REASON FOR FEAR

Amendment as Submitted by Congress Provides For Concurrent Power of States and Federal Government in Enforcement of Prohibition—State and National Authorities to Join Hands in Promoting the Public Welfare and in Safeguarding Public Morals.

Columbus, Ohio.—Certain Ohio newspapers opposed to Prohibition are asserting that the Prohibition amendment submitted by Congress will, if adopted, destroy the police powers of the state. J. A. White, Superintendent of the Ohio Anti-Saloon League, and attorney for the same, thinks this question is readily answered by Section 2 of the resolution submitting the amendment, which says:

"The Congress and the several states shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Mr. White goes on to say: That language itself preserves to the states all their police powers, and the right to exercise them in the enforcement of the law, the same, of course, being concurrent with the federal authority.

The police power has been defined as that "Broad authority given the people to provide for the protection of the public health, the public morals and the public safety."

The United States Supreme Court, in construing the Mann Act, passed by Congress and known as the White Slave Act, said that there was concurrent jurisdiction existing between the federal and state authorities in protecting public morals. The Court made that statement regardless of whether or not the law itself specifically granted it; but in the case of the Federal Prohibition amendment, Section 2, it expressly preserves alike the state and federal authorities in enforcing and enforcing legislation after the amendment has been ratified by 36 states.

This amendment was submitted on the theory that has long been announced by the courts that there should be no "Twilight Zone" between the federal and state authorities in which anyone might hide and evade either the state or federal authority. Hence, the attitude of the courts in boldly announcing that there is concurrent jurisdiction existing between the federal and state authorities in safeguarding the public health and the public morals and the public safety. This principle is fundamental because neither State nor Federal authorities can exist long unless they join hands in every way possible in safeguarding these principles upon which the government itself depends for its very existence.

Following the announcement of this principle by the courts, now comes the national Congress and expressly puts in the amendment the authority giving concurrent jurisdiction in the enforcement of the law enacted after the ratification of the amendment.

The liquor crowd always sets up a howl if too much authority is given to punish its lawlessness. A law-abiding man never has any fear if all the courts in the universe have jurisdiction over him. It is only the law-breaking element that fights the extension of jurisdiction to the courts. Why should not the national government join hands with state governments in safeguarding public morals and the public health and in promoting the general welfare?

The war has caused the college professors to enter practical fields. Many are serving the government. Some are connected with great corporations. A railroad has made one of them a director. The time may come when a professor will be known by the jingle of ten-dollar gold pieces in his pocket.

The man who declares that to worry is as sinful as to drink never had a house to keep on high food prices, a valuable chauffeur commandeered by the draft or a growing child to bring up, or he would know that it can't be helped.

A desire on the part of soldiers' wives to follow their husbands to France represents admirable sentiment. But under the circumstances they will be expected to stay at home and attend to their knitting.

A Wisconsin artillery sergeant was presented with a \$1,000 swagger stick on his birthday. Isn't it queer what ridiculous things a committee can buy with other people's money?